

Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by CAC member Tim Klevar at the Maple Grove Government Center. It was announced that there was not a quorum so no decision making would be made, and the meeting would primarily be discussion of a 2013 community survey.

Members Present

John Beacham	Stephen Gill	Lorraine Gresser
Harry Kennedy	Tim Klevar	Joan Masberg
Don Skoglund		

Members Absent

Leslie Bender, Linda Furst, Greg Hulne, Bob Joiner, Pam Larson Steven Maas, Joe Piket, Kevin Rebman. Also absent was CAC City Staff Liaison Mike Opatz.

Others Present

Councilmember Phil Leith and two students from Maple Grove Senior High School.

Minutes

The minutes for the November 14, 2012 regular CAC meeting were not approved as there was not a quorum.

Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered to John Beacham, Stephen Gill, Harry Kennedy, Tim Klevar, and Joan Masberg for two-year terms to expire December 31, 2014.

Introduction

The high school students introduced themselves.

Area Reports

- Positive comments were made about snow removal and the work of the Public Works staff.
- Streetlight out of synch at Dunkirk Lane and Weaver Lake Road.
- Councilmember Leith asked what people thought of the flashing yellow arrow for making left turns.
- Police do a nice job with tours of the Public Safety Facility.
- LETF ready to open. The City of Plymouth has a contract to partner with Maple Grove on the facility. In addition, the LETF will be open to the public.

2013 Community Survey

While there was no quorum, the group decided to discuss the survey options and review previous survey questions. A handout from National Research Center was distributed detailing the survey study design and implementation and survey administration options.

When asked, Councilmember Leith stated the City Council supports CAC undertaking a community survey in 2013.

The statement was made that the mail survey with online option makes the most sense if there are no time constraints.

CAC member Beacham stated, that as a resident, he was part of the 2008 phone survey. He stated it was interesting, and he was glad to be a part of it.

When the survey was completed in 2008 there were 401 respondents, a 35% response rate.

The statement was made that for 2013 it looks like a mail survey is economical and recommended by NRC.

It was thought that in 2008 utility bills were used for securing survey respondents.

The question was asked that if the survey was online was there a way to ensure only one response per household.

It appears that for the 2013 survey those in attendance would suggest a mail survey.

Discussion turned to survey questions, and the suggestion was made to either form a committee to decide on the questions or for the group to choose questions all together.

The suggestion was made to review the survey and take out any questions that don't apply now but keep a majority of questions from the old survey to keep consistency and compare responses. The suggestion was made to ask questions about new amenities such as the Town Green and Sports Dome.

The suggestion was also made to add a question about a City Council primary for elections. It was not understood why there would be an added cost to have a primary for those seeking a City Council seat on the ballot as every election for many years past has had a primary. Councilmember Leith stated consideration is given to changing the filing fee for City Council to weed out those who file because they only want to see their name on the ballot.

Suggested question topics for the 2013 survey: sports dome, town green, library, new businesses/restaurants, growth, big box/retail vacancies, and traffic/roundabouts. Councilmember Leith stated that Maple Grove does have a lower retail vacancy rate than the overall metro area.

The group wondered about having open ended questions on the survey to receive citizen comments and feedback. Councilmember Leith was asked if he could think of other specific items to add; he said no.

It was felt that if the survey was mail/online it would be easier for respondents to add feedback.

The group discussed the timeframe to conduct the survey and stated they would prefer to have it completed before the school year ends. Possibly mail in March and have it completed by May; otherwise wait until fall.

CAC members should come to the February meeting prepared to discuss the survey and the questions they would like to see on it.

Other Business/ Updates

Discussion turned to the Osseo Maple Grove Basketball Association, and when asked, the statement was made that the City Council has not seen anything yet from this organization about a facility.

The recommendation was made to have OMGBA come before the CAC again if they do move forward on a proposed facility. The understanding is that the CAC will be involved just like with the sports dome and second sheet of ice.

One of the CAC members, who also coaches for OMGBA, stated the elementary school floors are not as in good of shape as at the high schools and junior high schools.

An inquiry was made about the proposed Silvercrest senior housing development. Councilmember Leith stated he had toured Silvercrest's Eden Prairie facility and it has a lot of amenities. There are concerns about having a nursing home particularly related to Medicare and insurance. Maple Grove has a strong senior population. The question was asked if there are tax credits for a nursing home. The question was also asked if the City is pursuing a nursing home or would have any incentives. It was stated that long-term care funding is an issue.

The statement was made that Prairie Care is building a second facility for youth/adult psychiatric care.

2013 Community Survey

Promotion of the survey was briefly discussed with options such as the City newsletter, Channel 12, and Maple Grove Patch.com.

The statement was made it is important to keep survey responses random, and concerns about people opting in if they were given a variety of options to use for completing the survey (mail, online, etc.)

CAC members should bring their suggested survey questions to the first meeting in February, and the goal is to have the questions done at that meeting.

CAC member Klevar said he would send an email to all CAC members to review the 2008 survey questions and come to the February 2013 meeting with their suggestions.

CAC would like to present survey questions and plan to the City Council at either a late February or early March Council meeting.

CAC would like to possibly have NRC at the February CAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris
Minute Secretary